

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



Report of the workshop on census and survey data dissemination using REDATAM

Saint Lucia and the Bahamas





UNITED NATIONS



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Workshop on census and survey data dissemination
using REDATAM - Saint Lucia and the Bahamas
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Castries, Saint Lucia

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**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON CENSUS AND SURVEY
DATA DISSEMINATION USING REDATAM
SAINT LUCIA AND THE BAHAMAS**

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. Subregional capacity building in census data processing and dissemination

1. Since the 2000 round of population and housing censuses, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has sought to make Caribbean census data more widely available to policy analysts, researchers and the public by promoting and supporting the use of the REDATAM (Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer) software for online dissemination of census data. ECLAC carried out 13 REDATAM workshops in the Caribbean between 2008 and 2022. These were a mixture of regional and national workshops and included two online workshops in 2020 and 2021 when face-to-face workshops were not possible. As of December 2023, 10 member States have made their data from the 2010 round of censuses available online through REDATAM. This represents an improvement over the 2000 round when four countries implemented REDATAM. The 10 Caribbean countries that have made data from one or more censuses available online through REDATAM are: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Belize, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

2. The 2020 round of population and housing censuses was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most countries would have originally planned to carry out their census during 2020 and 2021, but due to the pandemic, the majority have been undertaken in 2022 and 2023.¹ It should also be noted that many countries experienced problems related to the recruitment and retention of census field workers which meant that census data collection extended over many months, leading to further delays. As a result, most countries are still engaged in completing census fieldwork or checking, editing, and imputing for missing census data. These countries will begin to publish census results and provide access to census microdata from 2024.

3. The delays have meant that recent REDATAM training workshops have continued to focus on analysis and dissemination of data from the 2010 round of censuses, and provision of training in preparation for the time when data from the 2020 round becomes available. However, this training workshop for staff of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Saint Lucia and the Bahamas National Statistical Institute, is the first which is being carried out to support processing, analysis and dissemination of newly collected 2020 round data.

2. REDATAM: a tool for census dissemination

4. Providing easy access to census data is essential if statistical offices are to encourage wider use of the data for decision-making and development planning. Caribbean statistical offices disseminate census data in various forms, for example census reports, REDATAM applications, and through the release of anonymized microdata. While traditional census reports are perhaps the first port of call for users of census data, REDATAM applications provide controlled access to census microdata, thereby allowing users to generate customized tables, indicators, graphs and maps in accordance with their own needs. These applications provide users with much richer and more flexible access to the data, for example the ability to disaggregate data by sex, age, ethnicity, employment status, health status, disability status or any other variable of interest, while still protecting the confidentiality of individual census records.

5. The REDATAM software is developed and supported by ECLAC. The software is used in many Latin American countries and increasingly in the Caribbean. It is also being used by a number of national

¹ Statistical offices carrying out censuses in 2022 included Anguilla, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia while Montserrat, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos Islands carried out censuses in 2023.

statistical offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. REDATAM has been used primarily to provide access to census data sets, although it can also be used for survey data sets such as living conditions surveys. Improved online access to these data sets can only encourage their use in research, development planning and evidence-based policymaking.

6. The principal objectives of this workshop were to provide a comprehensive training in the use of the REDATAM software for creation, processing and dissemination of census and survey data, with a particular focus on facilitating dissemination of the recently collected 2020 round census data. Following the workshop, ECLAC will continue to work with the statistical offices of Saint Lucia and the Bahamas to support their use of the REDATAM software.

B. ATTENDANCE AT THE WORKSHOP

1. Place and date of the workshop

7. The workshop on census and survey data dissemination using REDATAM was held from 27 November to 8 December 2023 in Castries, Saint Lucia.

2. Participation

8. The workshop was targeted at statisticians and IT Officers from two participating organizations. There were 13 participants from the Central Statistical Office of Saint Lucia and two participants from the Bahamas National Statistical Institute. The composition of the participants by sex was eight women and seven men and the full list of participants appears as annex I of this report.

C. SUMMARY AND KEY OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

1. Opening session

9. The workshop was opened by the Population Affairs Officer of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean who highlighted the importance of promoting the use and analysis of census data and the potential of the REDATAM software to expand access to census and survey microdata.

10. He emphasized that the main aim of the workshop was to facilitate the development of web applications for the national census data sets and restated the Economic Commission's commitment to provide whatever follow-up support was necessary in order to achieve this.

2. Organization of work

11. The workshop was organized over two weeks. Days one and two focused on the creation of REDATAM databases using the Create module. Participants practised the creation of REDATAM databases through importing and formatting data held in a variety of formats, including SPSS, CSPro, Stata and csv files. Days three to five covered the analysis, tabulation and generation of indicators using the Process module. Participants prepared command scripts to produce derived variables, tabulations and indicators using Saint Lucia's 2010 census data.

12. On days six and seven, the focus was on the conversion of national data sets to the REDATAM format and dealing with problems related to data formats and database consistency. Participants worked on two data sets, the Saint Lucia Survey of Living Conditions 2016 and the Bahamas Population and Housing

Census 2010 and produced preliminary REDATAM databases. On days eight to ten, participants learned how to create web applications for tabulation, mapping and generation of indicators based on data stored in REDATAM databases. They practiced using REDATAM INL language which is used to build web applications.

3. Closing session and the way forward

13. A closing session was held on the final afternoon of the workshop, which included a discussion of next steps regarding the preparation of the 2022 census data. In the case of the Saint Lucia CSO, census fieldwork is nearing its conclusion and the next major phase will be checking the data and carrying out data editing and imputation. In conjunction with these processes, it was recommended to create a preliminary census database in the REDATAM format because the hierarchical structure of a REDATAM database provides a useful consistency check between data at the building, dwelling, household and person levels.

14. In respect of the Bahamas National Statistical Institute, a 2010 census database in the REDATAM format was created during the workshop. ECLAC will support the development of a REDATAM web application for this data set, which can then be adapted to create a web application for the 2022 census data when this is finalised.

4. Summary of post-workshop evaluation

15. Annex II provides a summary of participants' responses to the evaluation questionnaire administered at the end of the workshop. The evaluation confirmed a generally high level of satisfaction with the workshop, with all participants giving the workshop an overall rating of good or excellent. The technical content of the workshop also receiving ratings of good or excellent from all participants.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****Central Statistical Office, Saint Lucia**

- Richard Harris, Deputy Director, CSO, email: richard.harris@govt.lc
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- Subrenna Higgs, Senior Deputy Director of IT, Bahamas National Statistical Institute (seconded from the Customs Department to the Statistical Institute to assist with digitization of the 2022 census), email: subrennahiggs@bahamas.gov.bs

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Annex II**WORKSHOP EVALUATION**

Total number of participants = 15

Number of evaluation forms submitted = 11 (6 females and 5 males)

Response rate = 73 per cent

1. How would you rate the training overall?

	Excellent	Good	Regular	Poor	Very poor	Not sure/ no response	Total
Female, n (%)	2 (33)	4 (67)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (100)
Male, n (%)	1 (20)	4 (80)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Total, n (%)	3 (27)	8 (73)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)

2. How would you rate the technical content of the workshop?

	Excellent	Good	Regular	Poor	Very poor	Not sure/ no response	Total
Female, n (%)	2 (33)	4 (67)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (100)
Male, n (%)	2 (40)	3 (60)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Total, n (%)	4 (36)	7 (64)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)

3. Did the workshop meet your initial expectations?

	Yes	No	Not sure/no response	Total
Female, n (%)	5 (83)	0 (0)	1 (17)	6 (100)
Male, n (%)	4 (80)	0 (0)	1 (20)	5 (100)
Total, n (%)	9 (82)	0 (0)	2 (18)	11 (100)

4. How relevant was the training for the work of your institution?

	Very relevant	Relevant	Somewhat relevant	Not relevant	Not sure/ no response	Total
Female, n (%)	2 (33)	4 (67)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (100)
Male, n (%)	1 (20)	4 (80)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Total, n (%)	3 (27)	8 (73)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)

5. How would you improve this workshop in terms of the subjects addressed (for example, issues you would have liked to address or analyse in greater depth or subjects which were not so important)?

- The webserver application is the most difficult to grasp. The speed at which the facilitator moved was at times difficult to keep up.
- More time should have been spent on explaining the concepts involved in simpler terms. There were staff of all levels, therefore, the training should have been organized in a way that makes it easier for all levels.

- All subjects were broken down thoroughly.
- All subjects addressed were very useful. However, at times, the commands/operations shown on the screen went a little too fast.
- The workshop was executed perfectly, the material was presented clearly. Just need extra practice with the software.
- There isn't anything I would change.

6. How useful did you find the training for strengthening your capacity to develop REDATAM applications for the dissemination of microdata?

	Very useful	Useful	Regular	Not very useful	Not useful at all	Not sure/ no response	Total
Female, n (%)	3 (50)	3 (50)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (100)
Male, n (%)	2 (40)	3 (60)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Total, n (%)	5 (46)	6 (54)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)

7. How useful did you find the workshop for engaging in discussions and exchanging experiences with representatives of other institutions?

	Very useful	Useful	Regular	Not very useful	Not useful at all	Not sure/ no response	Total
Female, n (%)	3 (50)	2 (33)	0 (0)	1 (17)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (100)
Male, n (%)	3 (60)	2 (40)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Total, n (%)	5 (45)	5 (45)	0 (0)	1 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)

Note: Row percentages may not appear to sum to 100% due to rounding to the nearest whole number.

8. How would you rate the organization of the workshop? If you choose “poor” or “very poor” please explain your response so that we can take your opinion into account.

		Excellent	Good	Regular	Poor	Very poor	Not sure/ no response	Total
Quality of materials provided	Female, n (%)	4 (67)	1 (17)	1 (17)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (100)
	Male, n (%)	2 (40)	3 (60)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
	Total, n (%)	6 (55)	4 (36)	1 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)
Duration of the sessions and time for debate/questions	Female, n (%)	0 (0)	4 (67)	0 (0)	2 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (100)
	Male, n (%)	2 (40)	2 (40)	1 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
	Total, n (%)	2 (18)	6 (55)	1 (9)	2 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)
Quality of the infrastructure (room, sound, catering)	Female, n (%)	0 (0)	2 (33)	0 (0)	1 (17)	3 (50)	0 (0)	6 (100)
	Male, n (%)	0 (0)	2 (40)	2 (40)	1 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
	Total, n (%)	0 (0)	4 (36)	2 (18)	2 (18)	3 (27)	0 (0)	11 (100)

Note: Row percentages may not appear to sum to 100% due to rounding to the nearest whole number.

9. Based on the ratings selected above, please indicate what worked well and what could be improved.

- The lighting of the room was very bad for screen viewing. The catering was very poor especially the lunch menu. The food was too starchy and not that tasty.
- The facilitators incorporated and worked with data from the office that made it easier to comprehend.

- The projector was faulty, which created poor lighting and blurring. Catering was horrible.
- Improve: more time for training; too much to take in a short space of time; the quality of the food was very poor.
- Being provided with step-by-step instruction manuals to use when returning to the office. Also, a flow diagram of the file structures etc. would be helpful.
- Worked Best: hands on experience; personal assistance from facilitators.
- Everything went well but I believe that the day-to-day duration of the training is a bit excessive
- Better explanation of technical material and procedures.
- Information and material worked well. Assistance from presenters was exceptional. The projection and projector were beyond optimal as the information was blurry and made it difficult to follow. The projection of the information was poor, poor projector, food and lighting for such a workshop that is screen time sensitive.
- The addition of video tutorials would have helped participants move at their own pace.
- The individual attention given to participants was excellent. Workshop facilities and catering need improvement.

10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the organizational aspects of the workshop?

- There was no daily register provided to monitor the attendance of participants. This workshop was very good. Happy to have participated.
- Should have been placed in a different place. The projector and screen were poor. Should have been better.

11. What additional technical cooperation activities in the field of population and development or statistics would you suggest that ECLAC undertake in the future?

- More training like these to refresh. Or develop videos.
- Provide CSPro training along with this training.
- More training for staff.
- Training in Business Intelligence and Business Analytics would align with the times.
- Competency in CSPro usage and basic statistics processes.
- Fundamentals of data processing



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